



St Ilan visit to England - Gwen

Rob: I'm with Gwen, the teacher of this group of young people who've been to Dartmoor. They've just given us a presentation about some of the things that they've seen and heard, and witnessed, and learned in Dartmoor. Why did they go to Dartmoor?

Gwen: They went to Dartmoor because we believe that it's important to try and live the language, that is try and use it as a tool for communication, and the best way to do it is to go to an English-speaking country. So, in fact, with Nathalie, my colleague, who teaches environment and landscape, we work together with the students from the beginning of September so that they could prepare the topics they decided to work on, prepare the language too, and once we were there, when they got in touch with people who could help them to develop their research, we also shared a very rich moment with students at Okehampton College, that was really interesting. And, what is very good is that the students now have partners, English partners, so they chat, and it's really good because it's real life. That's what we always aim for.

Rob: You could have gone to other places in England, but you chose to go to Dartmoor. Is there a reason for that?

Gwen: Well there are two main reasons. The first one is that it's a national park and the students are interested in wild life, natural environment. Of course that was one of the reasons, and the second one is that it's close to Plymouth, and we could have gone to north Yorkshire, for example, which also is a nice place, or the Lake District, but it's more, more expensive.

Rob: And what do you think the young people got out of their visit?

Gwen: It's really amazing to see them gaining in confidence and enjoying it. It's mostly the pleasure they get out of speaking English and you know, meeting people. Well, I think ... once you get to that notion of pleasure, everything is possible.

Rob: I notice that they responded very well when you asked them about what they ate.

Gwen: Yeah, well, yeah, they enjoyed, they enjoyed it, they all tried English breakfast. In fact, they had two. I had told them that "no choice". We even have an English vegetarian full breakfast. And, in fact, because they were willing to go and they, they're open-minded and they knew they wanted to discover -- in fact they wanted to try everything, and they wanted to discover, so it was a pleasure for all of us: the teachers and the students.

Rob: I suppose that the students of St. Ilan will be going again?

Gwen: Yes, definitely. In fact, it's one of the specificities of the STAV course, STAV meaning the students who take leur bac -- bac A-levels -- with the speciality in environmental studies, and we have been doing this for about 25 years now, so it can be in England, Guernsey, Jersey -- always an English-speaking country, but always with the same concept of them preparing before, then working on projects in little groups and then doing what we did today, that is, well making a show. That is, they need to digest



all of information, they need to be able to present them and to enjoy it and also make people enjoy it, and want to travel and discover -- go to Eden Project.